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TERRIFIC SLAUGHTER CONTINUES IN FRANCE

CAPTURE MANY POSITIONS IS

German Official Statement Says Battle of Monchy. Cambrai, St. Quentin Has Been Won by Hun Forces

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

BERLIN, March 24, (via London).-(British admiralty per Wireless Press). -The Germans have captured Peronne and Ham and defeated British and American regiments brought up from the southwest for a counter attack on Chauny, according to the war office statement today.

The statement adds that more than 30,000 prisoners have been captured and six hundred guns have been taken by

Franco-American Reserves?

Victory in the battle which has been raging near Monchy, Combral, St. Quentin and La Fere is claimed by the Germans. The British third and fourth armies and parts of Franco-American reserves are declared to have been beaten with the heaviest lesses on the line from Bapaum to Bouchayesnes and and behind the Somme between Peron-ne and Ham, as well as at Chauny. The text of the communication fol-

lows:
"Western theater: The battle near
Monchy, Cambrai, St. Quentin and La
Fere has been wom.
"The British third and fourth armies

and portions of the Franco-American reserves who had been brought up were beaten, and on the line of Bapaume-Bouchavesnes and behind the Somme, between Peronne and Ham, as well as at Channy, were repulsed with the heaviest of losses,

Claim Taking Monchy Heights

"The army of General von Below (Otto) took by storm Monchy height and south thereof carried forward the and south thereof carried forward the attack in a westerly direction beyond Wancourt and Henin. It now is en-gaged in a fight northwest of Bapaume for the third enemy positions. Strong British counter attacks were repulsed. "The army of General von Dermar-Witz, following upon the heels of the vanquished enemy, pressed forward in close pursuit Friday night as far as the third enemy position in the Equan-court, Nuriu, Templeux, La Fosse, eourt, Nurn Bernes line,

Junction Effected, Claim

"Early yesterday morning they re-newed their attack against the enemy and defated him, in spite of his des-perate defense and continual counter attacks. A junction with the left wing of the attack of General von Below was

"Between Manancourt and Peronne the troops of Generals von Kathen and von Gotard have forced a crossing over the Tortille sector and on the Somm battlefield are fighting around Bouche vesnes. Peronne has fallen. Other divisions have pressed forward to the south thereof as far as the Somme.

"As early as Friday evening the army of General von Hutier, pressing closely forward, took by storm the third enemy position, broke through it and compelled the enemy to retire.

Claim Forces Reach Somme "In ceaseless pursuit, the corps of General von Luettwitz and von Cet-

tinge have reached the Somme.

"Ham fell, after a desperate fight, into the hands of our victorious troops. English reserves which were thrown against them in a desperate attack, sustained sanguinary losses.

"The corps of Generals von Webern an von Conte and the troops of General you Geyl, after a fierce battle, crossed

the Crozat canal.

'French, English and American regiments which had been brought up from the southwest for a counter attack were thrown back on Chauny in a southwesterly direction.

'Our captures have increased to over

Our captures have increased to over 28,000 prisoners and 600 guns. On many of the remaining points of the western front artillery battles and reconnoitering engagements have continued. "In the other theaters there is noth-

WIRELESS MESSAGE

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

AMSTERDAM, March 24.-The Ger-AMSTERDAM, March 24.—The German government, according to a Berlin dispatch, has sent the following wireless message to the Russian government, respecting the reported statement of the American ambassador to Russia on his attitude toward the ratification of the German-Russian peace: "The imperial government cherishes the certain expectation that the Russian government will give a quick answer, corresponding with the peace treaty concluded with the central powers, to this statement, which signifies open incitement to the resumption of the war against Germany."

open incitement to the is

David R. Francis, the American am bassador to Russia, issued a statement early in March at Vologda, warning the Russians that a German victory meant the return of monarchical con-ditions and advising them not to ratify the treaty arranged by Lenine and Trotzky. The congress of the work-men and soldiers' council was at the time meeting at Muscow and had the treaty under consideration.

French Praise Resistance of

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] WASHINGTON, March 24,-Violent fighting between the British and Germans was continuing at 2:30 o'clock this morning between Croisilles and Tergnier, an official dispatch from Paris today announced.

The dispatch says:

"March 24, 2:30 a.m.—The German offensive is continuing between Croisiles and Tergnier with violent fighting in which the Germans are said to have used 97 divisions. The English resistance is very efficient in everything and the German losses are very heavy. The fighting line is brought back to about six or seven kilometers behind the third line. Confidence remains complete." The dispatch says:

Germans Claim Advantages by Drive For Day

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] BERLIN, Via London, March 24. -Paris has been bombed by German long distance guns, according to the German official communica-

tion issued tonight. The statements add that the British in their retirement are burning French towns and villages and that between Somme and the Oise the Germans are still going forward.

Enormous quantities of booty have been taken by the Germans.

have been taken by the Germans.

"Between the Somme and the Oise our corps are fighting their way forward. Chauny has been taken.

"Our booty in war materials are enormous. The English in their retirement are burning French towns and villages.

"We have bombarded the fortress of Paris with long distance guns."

"A gigantic struggle is taking place for Bapaume. A battle is in progress on the Transloy-Combles-Maurepas line.

"The Somme has been crossed at many points in our attack between

Peronne and Ham."

Hindenburg Is Well Pleased Over Advance

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] AMSTERDAM, March 24.-"Well, your mapesty, I think we may be well pleased with the ini-

tial success."
Thus the Berlin Tageblatt quotes Field Marshal von Hindenburg as saying to Emperor William when the field marshal received the first

the field marshal received the first telegrams concerning the activities on the western front. Another dispatch from Berlin says the German empress has re-ceived the following telegram from Emperor William:

"I am pleased to be able to tell you that, by the grace of God, the battle of Monchy, Cambrai, St. Quentin and La Fere has been won. The Lord has gloriously aided. May He further help."

English Admit Withdrawal of Part of Army

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] [Republican A. P. Leased-Wire]
LONDON, March 24.—"North of Peronne," says the official statement tonight from British head-quarters in France, "enemy attacks were directed with the greatest violence against the line of the River Tortille, (a tributary of the Somme). Our troops on this portion of the battle front have been withtdrawn and are fighting on new positions.

"Further north repeated assaults by large bodies of German infantry have been repulsed with heavy loss to the enemy. In this fighting the

to the enemy. In this fighting the seventh and fortieth divisions greatly distinguished themselves, beating off many hostile attacks."

Million Huns Concentrated

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] LONDON, March 24.—Describing the great struggle in France, the Havas correspondent says: "The British retired in good or-der, ceding ground foot by foot, to strong positions prepared months

ago.
"In the later stages of the battle 97 German divisions were engaged. Thus the German command concentrated against the British front half of the forces at their disposal on the whole western front."

Based on 12 000 men to a German division, the number of Germans engaged according to the Havas correspondent, was approximately 1,164,000.

GENERAL MARCH English Army KNOWS NOTHING OF HUNS' CLAIMS

No Confirmation of Report Americans Have Been Used as Reserves Back of

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

firmation of German reports that eral March, acting chief of staff, who remained at his office much of the day and night, said no advices to this ef-

fect had been received. *
It was recalled that American railway engineers, in training at the Brit-ish front, were involved in the Ger-man counter attack on the Cambrai some months ago; but there has been nothing to indicate that any other than engineer or other special units have been employed at any time with the

Nothing is Given Out Officials generally displayed the most eager interest in every item of news as to the German drive. The government may have received some confidential advices from General Pershing on the situation, but General March said nothing was to be given

The intense interest in press reports displayed by President Wilson himself indicated that official information was meager. The Associated Press dispatches were transmitted to him dur-ing the evening.

The official British and German re-ports were taken here as showing that a second phase of the great battle had begun and was continued throughout the day with no decisive result. It ap-peared that the British line in gen-eral was still intact at the close of the

Settles All Gun Doubts

The announcement from Berlin that Paris had been bombarded by long range guns seemed to settle any doubt there had been as to what transpired in the French capital yesterday an today. The range of the new weaponever the front lines, who checked the admiles-exceeds anything dreamed of by ordnance experts here so far as known.

Whatever the Germans may have discovered in the way of new explosives or new gun metal that permits the use of heavier charge of powder without destructions. without destruction of the weapon it-self it is noted with satisfaction here that the first employment they have given their war monster has resulted in no military advantage whatever. The damage in Paris from an all-day ardment was insignificant. Left to his own choice, a citizen of Paris probably would prefer the new gun to airplane bombs

CANADIANS GAS AND BOMBARD ENEMY IN

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] CANADIAN HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, Thursday, March 21-(B) Canadian Press)-While German and Canadian Fress) while German and British troops were struggling far to the south in the opening clash of the spring campaign, the greatest projec-tor gas bombardment of the war was carried out by the Canadians tonight against enemy positions between Lens and Hill No. 70.

At 11 o'clock a signal rocket was sent up. A moment later more than 5,000 drums of lethal gas, simultaneously released from projectors, were hurled in-to enemy territory from the outskirts of Lens to Cite St. Auguste and Bois of Lens to Cite St. Auguste and Bois de Dix-Huit. From his front lines and strong points, favoring winds carried the poisonous clouds back upon the enemy's dugouts, supports, reserves and assembly areas. The whole front was lit by enemy flares which could be seen through the heavy mist, while the enemy's gas alarm and cries of distress could be heard from the hostile trenches.

In Big Drive

Great Bombardment ramous

Nine minutes later the Canadian field artillery supported by heavy guns and trench mortars, opened up with a bombardment, increasing in violence, bombardment, increasing in violence, and the opening post-Great Bombardment Famous until 40 minutes later, the enemy posi-tions were swept with a short, inten-

Heavy Damage Inflicted Caught by the gas without a mo-ment's warning and caught again as ment's warning and caught again as they were emerging from their shelters by gunfire, the Germans' casualties must have been very heavy, for the effectiveness of smaller gas operations had been emphatically proved by the evidence of prisoners and tonight's bombardment was three times greater than anything of its kind everythment was the constitution on the attempted by the Canadians on the western front and much greater than anything ever launched by the Ger-

Complete Accomplishment of All Its Objective OPTIMISTIC VIEW Points Claimed by Germany While English Contend All Lines Are Holding Well

It Is For Possession of Such Desolation As

THE WITHDRAWAL of the British forces along the battle front in France was long ago planned in the event of the Gerthe British Line Received mans attacking in great force. This announcement comes from the

British front through the Associated WASHINGTON, March 24.—No con- Press correspondent who described American troops have participated in the operations of the British army the fight on the British front had reached the war department up to a late hour tonight. Major General Gen-

PERONNE

Part of town as it looked before

vance of the Germans, while artil-

the masses of German infantry as

they were sent forward, thus enab-

ling the main body of the British to

fall back deliberately and without

capture claimed by Huns. Scene

in great drive.

ing never ceased for a moment, and where Field Marshal Haig's English Expect Hardest of men were unable to withstand the terrific onslaughts delivered by greatly superior forces, ground was given, but always in orderly fashion.

It now has been definitely ascer- FRANCE, March 24.—(By the Associtained that considerably more than who co-operate at the Junction of the a million Germans have been two armies, were viewing the trend of the German offensive with optibrought to the western front in an of the German offensive with optimistic eyes this morning. Hard fight-

All Fighting Is Yet in Store for Them-Withdrawals in Good Order

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN ated Press)-The British and French, ing was in progress, but the latest reports showed little or no change in the situation in favor of the enemy since yesterday, while on the other hand the defenders had pushed the at-treking forces back after a bifter strug-gle and were holding strongly along the whole new front to which they had withdrawn This Tens of Thousands Have Given Lives had withdrawn.

Desperate Fighting Continues Fighting of a most desperate nature righting of a most desperate nature has been continuous since the initial attack, but so far the British have used few troops other than those which were holding the front lines. These troops have been making as gallant a defense as was ever recorded in the annals of the British army as a result they have enabled the main body of the forces to fall back deliberately and without confusion and occupy positions without confusion and occupy positions which had been prepared long before the German offensive began.

Germans Hurl Vast Hordes

The Germans on the other hand, operating under the eyes of the emperor and the crown prince, have been hurling vast hordes into the fray with utter disregard for lives and have followed into the abandoned positions getting farther and farther away from their supplies and finding their communications increasingly difficult.

More than 50 German divisions already have been identified by actual contact, and many of these men were simply given two days' iron rations and sent over the top into the frightful maelstrom made by the allied artillery, machine guns and rifles. The slaughter of the enemy infantry as it advanced in close formation over the Germans Hurl Vast Hordes

advanced in close formation over the open has been appalling.

Withdrawals Well Executed

The British losses have been within the bounds expected, due to the tactics

Harder Fighting Coming

Main Battle Near Peronne

The hardest fighting yesterday oc-

CONGRATULATES ARMIES

troops of our army on their splendid defense today. He relies upon their continued steadfastness and valor to crush this new attack, and with it the enemy's last hope of success."

SURPRISE IS FAILURE

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

endeavor to crush the British army

confusion. **ENGLISH ARMY CONSERVED**

This army, it is declared, has been conserved and up to the present very few counter attacks have been made against the Germans. Where the British have stormed the INTENSIVE ATTACKS Germans' newly acquired positions they have driven them back. But each mile of advance makes the bringing up of supplies to the German artillery and infantry more and more difficult and unquestionably the British strategy, as demonstrated since the beginning of the great attack, is to let the enemy, so far as he may, wear himself out against a powerful defense.

ENGLISH HOLDING SECTORS

On the battle line in France the sanguinary struggle still is going on with the British troops on most of the sectors apparently holding their own, but with the Germans at salient points still pressing for-

The town of Chauny, southwest of St. Quentin, situated on the road to Compiegne, the gateway to sive creeping barrage, with raked his forward and rear areas with high ex-Germans and, according to the Berlin official communications, everywhere between the Somme and the Oise rivers the Germans are pressing their advantage.

FIGHTING NEVER PAUSES

Throughout Sunday along the ertire 50-mile battle front the fightholding the line from the region of Arras to the south of St. Quentin, but it daily becomes increasingly evident that the enemy in his drive has met with opposition not counted upon and has been unable to realize to the full his objectives.

CLAIM PERONNE AND HAM

British nad planned for the very events which have occurred.

It is permitted to say now what some have known for a long time, namely, that the British never intended to try to hold the forward positions in this region if the Germans attacked in force.

In addition to Chauny, the Germans are claiming the capture of both Peronne and Ham and to have increased the number of prisoners taken to more than 30,000, in addition to 600 guns and large stores of war materials.

It is claimed also by the German State also by the Germans that American and French

Harder Fighting Coming

There is every reason to believe that harder fighting than has yet taken place will develop shortly. The Germans, in the British view, cannot now hesitate in carrying on their attack, and it is a case of break through or admit defeat. In this circumstance it is interesting to note a statement made yesterday by a German officer, a prisoner, who declared that the German offensive was an act of desperation brought on by the fact that the fatherland must have peace.

However, the British take such assertions at their face value and are proceeding accordingly. In addition to Chauny, the Ger-

mans that American and French proceeding accordingly. regiments which were brought up

regiments which were brought up to reinforce the British have been defeated, but no further information than this mere statement has been vouchsafed.

One of the mysteries of the offensive which has now been solved is that the shelling of Paris is being done by a long range German gun. This statement is contained in the Berlin official communication and a Paris dispatch says that one of the guns has been located near the guns has been located near Laon, about 76 miles from the center of Paris. Throughout Sunday morning and into the mid-afternoon shells were dropped in Paris at intervals of from 12 to 20 [Republican A. P. Leased Wire] LONDON, March 24.—The following telegram, dated March 21, has been sent to the general officers commandating the third and fifth British armies: at intervals of from 12 to 20 minutes.

OTHER FRONTS ARE QUIET

On the other battle fronts the fighting activity continues comparatively slight, except fo rrecipparatively slight, except fo rreciprocal bombardments and trenchraiding operations. Along the Aisne front and in Champagne the artillery duels between the French (Continued on Page Two)

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

FRARIS, March 24.—The war office communication issued today says:

"German troops, after a violent bombardment, undertook a surprise attack to the south of Jurincourt, but quite without success.

"There has been fairly spirited artillery fighting in the region of Le Pretere wood; in the Vesics not far from La Fontenelle and at fartmans-weilerkopf."